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instance, when a voluntary action such as writing or drawing is executed. To students of psychology the further problem to be solved is how such centers act in relation to each other, and, above all, how far they are organizations for the reception of sensory impressions, as well as stations which issue outgoing orders, as it were, to the muscles. It is universally admitted that apperception must immediately precede all acts of so-called volition. This question the lecturer regarded as answered by the view that, at least in the carnivorous animals, brain conceptions and ideas of the movement to be performed by any part of the body are represented in the so-called motor center, which unquestionably is the starting point from which the final nerve impulse for the execution of that movement issues. After referring to the degree in which Dr. Jackson's original deductions have been confirmed by subsequent physiological as well as clinical investigations, Professor Hitzig dwelt on the fact that all workers in science are united in one camp in the battle against ignorance and against the opposition which some offer to the progress of natural knowledge. He felt that the invitation to him as a foreign investigator to deliver this lecture was an honorable expression of their common interests in their science.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

A CIRCULAR letter issued by the Yale Bicentennial Committee states that besides conditional pledges of \$250,000, subscriptions to the amount of \$900,000 have been received since the bicentennial movement was started.

FIRE in the main college building of the Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts destroyed on December 8th a large amount of valuable botanical material. The Parry herbarium was saved, except the duplicates which were nearly all burned. A part of the grass collection was saved and a few of the other specimens. The general collection contained about 80,000 specimens; more than 50,000 of these were burned, besides a large number of duplicate specimens numbering many thousands. Many valuable western plants collected by the writer, representing four years of labor,

were destroyed. Also sets of plants from Porto Rico, Cuba, Mexico, Wyoming, Colorado and Texas were burned and much of the private library was also ruined, as well as the department library. Most of the microscopes and other apparatus were burned. Manuscript on grasses of the State, besides one on thistles and some smaller papers ready for publication, were also destroyed.

MYRON L. FULLER, S.B., formerly instructor in geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is now an assistant geologist in the United States Geological Survey. He has been spending the summer in association with Mr. M. R. Campbell in the coal fields of western Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. Charles H. Warren, Ph.D., has been appointed instructor in mineralogy and geology at the Institute in the place formerly occupied by Mr. Fuller. Dr. Warren was previously instructor in Professor S. L. Penfield's Laboratory in New Haven.

MR. JOHN SEALY TOWNSEND, M.A., fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, lecturer and demonstrator in the Cavendish Laboratory, has been appointed to the newly-established Wykeham professorship of physics at Oxford. Professor Townsend, as we learn from the *London Times*, was student and exhibitioner in the University of Dublin, where he was gold medalist in mathematics and physical science, and obtained the mathematical studentship of 1900, besides other prizes and distinctions. In 1896 he was appointed demonstrator in physics at the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge. He was Clerk-Maxwell scholar in 1899, and was elected to a fellowship at Trinity in the same year. The subjects of this chair, of which the income is provided from the revenues of New College, are electricity and magnetism, which are thus withdrawn from the province of the professor of experimental philosophy, by whom they have hitherto been taught. Merten College has contributed £700 towards fitting up, and £500 towards the maintenance of, a new electrical laboratory for the use of the professor.

IT is announced that Sir William Muir, who is now 81 years of age, will shortly retire from the presidency of the University of Edinburgh.